



Press Release

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

P.O. Box 70

Austin, Texas 78767-0070

(512) 916-5581

On: NATIONAL RESOURCE INVENTORY -
CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT

For Information Contact:
Kori Wilson
1.800.626.3142

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Austin, Texas Are conservation practices improving water, soil, and air quality? Do conservation practices enhance wildlife habitats across this country? To help answer these questions, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the National Resource Inventory - Conservation Effects Assessment Project in October.

"This effort will provide an accounting of the benefits achieved through conservation programs. It will help show how much conservation practices are protecting our water and soils, and also enhancing wildlife habitats. It will also help to ensure that conservation programs will continue to provide America's working lands with the assistance needed to remain productive," said Robin Roark, State Director of the Texas Office of NASS.

Response to this project is very important, even for those producers who are not presently participating in any conservation programs. The need for actual, reliable conservation data is greater than ever to ensure environmental health for future generations. This is why help is needed to get an accurate measure of the environmental benefits of conservation programs. Farmers and ranchers are being asked to cooperate because they are the best source of this essential information. Only they can provide the data needed.

The resulting information will be added to other sources to create a complete picture of environmental and conservation management conditions. Answers from this survey will be used to estimate the potential benefits that have been achieved by farm conservation programs.

NASS works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. Agriculture informed. This survey provides farmers and ranchers with an important opportunity to help ensure that conservation programs continue to provide America's working lands with the assistance needed to remain both healthy and productive in the future.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Robin Roark, said. "Data from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation."

Annual progress reports will be published by the National Resource Conservation Service beginning in 2005. All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/.

For more information call 1.800.626.3142